

Fall Fun at the Michigan Historical Museum System

The Future of History

Michigan Historical Museum Lansing

September 21

Houdini: A Magician Among the Spirits. See a fresh interpretation of Houdini, the renowned escape artist who died on Halloween 1926 in Detroit. Runs through January 26, 2003.

October 2

Baseball Hall of Fame: As Good As It Gets. Baseball Hall of Fame president Dale Petroskey and baseball historian Steve Khalil talk about America's favorite pastime. Sponsored by the Friends of Michigan History and the Old-Timers Baseball Association of Greater Lansing. 7:00 P.M.

October 12

Celebrate Michigan Archaeology. Archaeologists present displays and answer questions about their most recent projects. For the whole family. 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

November 9

Oral History Seminar. This Library of Congress Veterans History Project is a partnership between the Friends of Michigan History, the Michigan Oral History Association, Michigan State University and the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries.

November 10

Vietnam Veterans Recognition Program. The Friends of Michigan History and the Military Order of the World Wars pay tribute to those who served in Vietnam. 1:30 P.M.



Dressed as a Union drummer boy, 13-year-old Future Historian Jacob Toman shares his knowledge of the Civil War with visitors at the Michigan Historical Museum.

Ask kids what their favorite after-school activities are. You'll hear answers like sports, computer games and television.

Here's a new one—history!

Kids are traveling from as far away as the Detroit suburbs to spend their free time at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing. They have joined the Future Historians, a group for students who like to have fun as they discover their rich Michigan heritage.

The group, for students in grades 6 through 12, has its first meeting of the new school year on September 24. New members are welcome; there is no charge to join.

Kids don't have to be all-A students to join the Future Historians. "They are just kids who like history and museums," says David Bridgens of the Michigan Historical Museum education unit. "We hope to take that seed and develop it into a lifelong interest."

Throughout the year, Future Historians learn about history and museum operations. They may find themselves participating in a discussion on historic events, making a 19th-century craft or learning how to care for and exhibit artifacts.

One of the most enriching aspects of the Future Historians teaches kids how to research history and then express information through interpretive techniques. Dressed in historic costume, these knowledgeable students, like 13-year-old Jacob Toman of Lansing, provide museum visitors an added dimension to their visit. In 1995, the Future Historians group was named the outstanding interpretive program of the year by the National Association for Interpretation.

Participation in the Future Historians can help students meet badge requirements in scouts and other service groups. For more information on the Future Historians group, telephone David Bridgens at (517) 241-0594 or e-mail him at bridgensd@michigan.gov.

Future Historians Fall 2002 Schedule

September 24

October 29

November 26

Meetings begin at 6:00 P.M. in
the Michigan Historical Museum
education room.

Continued on page 2

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November 22

Celebrate Silver Bells in the City! Enjoy musical performances and refreshments during special evening hours. 5:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Walker Tavern Cambridge Junction

October 12

Biting into History. A tasting session of 80 apple varieties from the 19th century. A family historical agriculture program. 1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

November 1

Painting and Graining Furniture. Adults bring their own chair, table, chest or trunk to practice using 19th-century painting and graining techniques. Noon to 3:00 P.M. Pre-registration required.

November 2, 9

Twig Furniture Workshop. Adults with basic tool knowledge can make a simple chair, table or shelf. Materials provided. 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Pre-registration required.

December 14

Blue Willow, Transferware, Redware and Chinese Tea. 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

December 14, 15

Holiday Open House. Learn how to decorate a tree for wildlife. 10:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

December 16, 17

Build a Sled. Sylvester Walker, the historical owner of Walker Tavern, invites young and old to help him make a sled and ready the farm for winter. 10:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

December 18-20

Peaceable Kingdoms. Make a 19th-century wooden toy. 1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

Mann House Concord

December 8

Victorian Holiday Open House. Tours, music, crafts and food. 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

For more information on any Michigan Historical Museum System event, telephone (517) 373-3559; TDD 1-800-827-7007. Visit the Michigan Historical Museum on-line at www.michiganhistory.org.

Markers: Many happy returns?



The Michigan Historical Marker program hopes for the return of missing official state historical markers. The marker shown here is still at its original location in Washtenaw County.

You've seen the familiar green-and-gold Michigan Historical Markers as you travel around the state. Maybe you even seek them out as interesting places to stop.

Since the Michigan Historical Marker program began in 1955, more than 1,500 markers have been placed at sites to designate and interpret their role in local, state and national history.

But some of these signposts to the past are missing.

The problem came to the forefront when state officials learned last year that a missing Michigan Historical Marker was up for bid on a popular Internet auction site. The marker honoring the Stroh Brewery was pulled from auction and eventually returned to the State Historic Preservation Office, a sister agency of the Michigan Historical Museum.

To encourage the return of more than 40 missing Michigan Historical Markers, an amnesty is in effect through September 26, 2002. After that time, anyone who possesses a marker without state permission faces up to 93 days in jail, a \$5,000 fine and other costs.

For more information, telephone the State Historic Preservation Office at (517) 373-1630. A searchable list of Michigan historic sites and a list of missing Michigan Historical Markers is available on-line at www.michiganhistory.org.

From the Museum Director

As the leaves begin to change color in mid-Michigan, staff at the Michigan Historical Museum is also preparing for change.

These changes—some administrative, others programmatic—are the result of a comprehensive planning process that was completed earlier this summer. Museum staff reviewed every aspect of the Michigan Historical Museum System and then developed a five-year plan to accomplish a fresh set of goals and objectives.

All areas of the museum will be affected, from education to collections, from public relations to exhibits. These new procedures and programs will be implemented over the coming year. You can keep up to date on these innovations by reading *The Museum Insider*.

It will be an exciting time for the Michigan Historical Museum staff and our hundreds of thousands of visitors. We proceed down this path with one goal in mind—to provide the best possible museum programs in the state.

—Phil Kwiatkowski

MUSEUM NOTES

Special Hours at the Museum

October is Family History Month. In celebration, the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing will maintain special hours. Every Wednesday in October, the museum, the Library of Michigan and the State Archives of Michigan will remain open until 8:00 P.M.

Museum Receives National Exhibit Award

The Michigan Historical Museum received a Certificate of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History. The award recognized the museum's *Schooner in the Sand: Unlocking the Secrets of a Great Lakes Shipwreck*.

Welcome to Our New Friends

Mary Lou Beaulieu	Lily and Shlomo Levental
Chris Bement	Trent Margrif
Alice Betz	Kathleen L. Mayo
Janet Daoust	Thomas O. and Betty P. Miller
Valorie and Laurence Domino	Mark Reckase
David and Lynn Fiedler	Iris Rodgers
Mary Lynn Francisco	Rick and Janet Shoup, II
David and Beth Ann Frayer	Sandra Smith
David and Julia Grimm	Ngere and Penny Wali
Cindy and Paul Guthaus	

Thank you to Our Renewing Friends

Mary Lou Adgate	Leslie Newlander
Charles Allen	Harold Old, Sr.
Phyllis Ammons	Terry Patzias
Lucile Belen	Barbara and David Powers
Ann Marie Bentley	Ken and Kim Quackenbush
Corinne Bertram	Mary L. Rhodes
Rolland Bethards	E. Jane Scandary
Joseph R. Beyrle, II	Charles F. Seeley
David H. Brickey	Tom Shawver
James Cameron	Tom Shiels
Dick Cowan	Jack Shoemaker
Norman Jamieson	Francis R. "Bus" Spaniola
Harry Johnson	Henrik E. Stafseth
Richard Johnson	Louise Stilwill
Jerry Lawler	Paul M. Tarr, Jr.
Gary Fangboner	Carol L. Van Eck
Chris Dancisak	Judy Von Bernuth
Barbara A. Leach	John R. Wells
David Machtel, Jr.	Geneva Wiskemann
Gerald McCarthy	John Woodford
Helen McLaughlin	Martha Wright-Shirtum
Richard G. Micka	Debra Yonker-Hecht
Gerald Miller	Julie Zaremba
Pearl Ann Miller	Kathy Ann Zurvalec

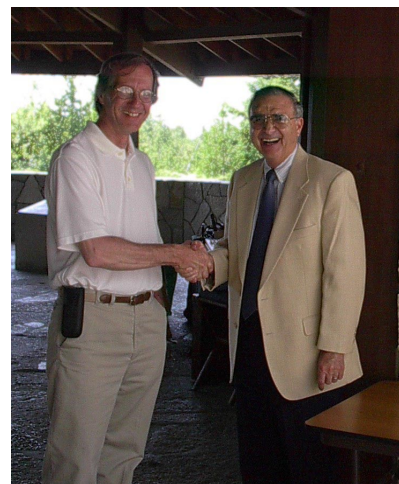
From the Friends President

It's been a busy summer for the Friends of Michigan History. On the financial side, the Friends recently presented a check for \$3,334 to the Michigan Historical Museum System. The check represents financial support for the Summer Sizzles day camp at the flagship museum in Lansing and the exhibit dedication ceremony at the Father Marquette National Memorial branch museum in St. Ignace.

On the program side, we have worked diligently to plan a fall season filled with events. As a spinoff of our annual Veterans Day program, this year we are working with the Department of History, Arts and Libraries in promoting the Veterans History Project, sponsored by the Library of Congress. The result is an oral history seminar scheduled for November 9. See the calendar of events for details.

I want to thank you for your contributions to our success!

— Francis R. "Bus" Spaniola



Michigan Historical Museum Upper Peninsula sites manager Tom Friggens thanks Friends president Bus Spaniola for the Friends support of the ceremony dedicating new exhibit enhancements at the Father Marquette National Memorial in St. Ignace.

Join the Friends!

If your heritage is important to you, join the Friends of Michigan History today. With your membership, the Friends support the Michigan Historical Center in protecting, preserving and interpreting the state's past.

Your membership benefits include:

- A 10 percent discount at the Michigan Historical Museum Store
- Special invitations to exhibit openings
- *The Museum Insider* newsletter
- A one-year subscription to *Michigan History* magazine
- Discounts on museum classes and workshops
- Nationwide discounts through the Time Traveler program
- Tax benefits when you itemize your IRS tax return

For more information, telephone (517) 373-1668.

Yes, I want to do my part to preserve Michigan's rich heritage. Please reserve my membership in the Friends of Michigan History.

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime telephone (____) _____

Membership level (check one):

☐ Student \$25 ☐ Family \$35 ☐ Contributing \$60 ☐ Sponsoring \$100

Payment method (check one):

☐ Check enclosed, payable to Friends of Michigan History
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Cardholder's name (please print) _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Cardholder's signature _____

Complete this form, clip and mail to:

Friends of Michigan History, P.O. Box 70038, Lansing, MI 48907-0038

Friends of Michigan History
P.O. Box 70038
Lansing, MI 48907



Houdini: A Magician Among the Spirits

September 21, 2002–January 26, 2003

- thrill to a Houdini escape
- learn the art of magic
- enjoy local magicians

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Now you see him... now you don't!



On November 27, 1906, Harry Houdini jumped, handcuffed, from the Belle Isle Bridge into the Detroit River. Since then, the name Houdini has become synonymous with thrilling feats of escape and amazing acts of magic.

But the American entertainment legend had another side, less remembered over the 76 years since his death.

Perhaps because of his intimate knowledge of illusion, Harry Houdini had a special crusade to debunk the claims of phony spiritualists and mediums. The man, his magic and his mission are explored in *Houdini: A Magician Among the Spirits*, opening September 21, 2002, at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing.

"Spiritualism was very popular in World War I," says Phillip C. Kwiatkowski, director of the Michigan Historical Museum System. "Families looked to mediums, hoping they could contact loved ones killed in the war. Houdini was at the forefront of exposing those who preyed on people's vulnerability during times of grief."

Houdini's last performance was in Detroit on October 24, 1926. Ignoring a doctor's diagnosis that the great magician had acute appendicitis, Houdini went on with his opening night performance at the Garrick Theater. Burning with a 104-degree temperature, he collapsed offstage after the first act but managed to complete his two-and-a-half-hour show. The following day, he was admitted to Grace Hospital, where he died one week later—Halloween.